



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - July 30, 2002

- ***In the West***, isolated showers are confined to portions of **Arizona and New Mexico**. Elsewhere in the **West**, effects of long-term drought include severe stress on dryland agriculture, reduced irrigation reserves, and the threat of additional wildfire activity.
- ***On the Plains***, heat and drought continue to severely stress pastures and dryland summer crops from the **central High Plains northward into southern Montana and southwestern North Dakota**. Meanwhile on the **southern Plains**, summer crops are benefiting from recent soil moisture improvements.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, hot conditions (today's high temperatures are forecast to approach 100 degrees F) are returning to **westernmost portions of the region (Nebraska, South Dakota, and western Iowa)**, where reproductive to filling corn and soybeans remain under significant drought stress. Temperatures remain favorable for summer crop development in the **eastern Corn Belt**, although many fields are in need of moisture to prevent additional stress during the reproductive and grain-fill stages.
- ***In the South***, unfavorably hot weather continues to stress pastures and summer crops in the **southern Atlantic States**, but beneficial showers are scattered elsewhere across the region.

Outlook: Later today, scattered showers will accompany a weak cold front in the **Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic States**. Farther west, showers are likely along a frontal boundary separating cooler-than-normal weather in the **northern Rockies and northern Plains** from summer heat across the **central and southern Plains and Corn Belt**. For the remainder of the week, widespread afternoon showers and thunderstorms will prevail in the **Southeast and Delta**, while monsoon showers will continue in the **Southwest**. The **Great Basin** and **Pacific Northwest** will remain mostly dry. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for August 4-8 calls for hotter-than-normal weather for the **southern Rockies, Plains, and Corn Belt**. Below-normal temperatures are expected along the **West Coast**. Above-normal precipitation is forecast for the **northern Plains, upper Mississippi Valley, and Gulf Coast region**, while below-normal rainfall is expected in the **central Rockies** and from the **southern Corn Belt southeastward into the southern Atlantic States**.

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